

**Southwest Virginia LGBTQ+ History Project**  
**Meeting at the Roanoke Public Libraries**  
**April 9, 2024**

1) ARCHIVES

- a) Roanoke College research assistant, JM, will be wrapping up work this month- has offered to continue archives work through summer/fall as volunteer:
  - i) *Blue Ridge Banner* (1990-1995) now fully digitized:  
<https://swvalgbtqhistory.org/physical-archives/>
  - ii) By May, the *Blue Ridge Messenger* (1997-1998) should also be done.
- b) Graduate-level (MLIS) intern from Old Dominion University finished work in December, but is still volunteering for the project:
  - i) A Version 2.0 of the *Blue Ridge Lambda Press* Subject Index has launched, now covering from 1981 through 1995:  
[https://swvalgbtqhistory.files.wordpress.com/2024/02/brla\\_brlp-subject-index-v.2-.pdf](https://swvalgbtqhistory.files.wordpress.com/2024/02/brla_brlp-subject-index-v.2-.pdf)
- c) Potential new summer internship archival work? - DM
  - i) Hollins could possibly host a summer intern to work on this with the project. Job description due to Hollins by 4/15
  - ii) We like the idea and would be good to get as much digitization done before window with RC closes, but feasibility mostly depends on GSR capacity.

2) ORAL HISTORIES

- a) Next steps?
  - i) KS: interview w/ G this spring still in scheduling phase
  - ii) GSR: possibility of May 2025 oral history bootcamp (two nights a week, over 3 to 4 weeks), open to the public, at Washington & Lee University?

3) PODCAST

- a) Episode 6 on LGBTQ housing and homelessness was released in December!
- b) Episode 7 will focus on queer youth in our public schools and come out in Spring 2024
- c) Episode 8 (potentially) may be a collab with Washington & Lee students in Fall 2024

4) WALKING TOURS

- a) Tour guide training & staffing updates - KS
  - i) One new guide, JW, leading first downtown tour in June and wants to learn other routes
- b) Brochure - GSR
  - i) Updated by JM & one hundred new copies printed!

## 5) TRANS WELLNESS FUND

### a) Updates:

- i) As of February 14, 2024:
  - ii) Money distributed: \$2,275
  - iii) Money remaining: \$0
  - iv) Total applications received: 127
  - v) Total awardees: 8
  - vi) Percentage, BIPOC awardees: 75%
- b) New donation webpage launched: <https://swvalgbtqhistory.org/donate/>
- c) Application portal is open again, will close on June 30th, and first round of funding under new model will occur in July or August

## 6) EVENTS

### a) KS will lead Bar Crawl on Friday, May 3rd!

- i) Itinerary: Billy's (but plan to go to 202 if Billy's is snobby), Olde Salem Brewing, Cuba Pete's, Martin's (plan to be turned away/priced out), Front Row, The Park
- ii) KS will likely give heads up to 202 and Cuba Pete's because their staff will appreciate the notice, especially if group is as large as last year

### b) Community Picnic - plan for Tues June 18

- i) Community partners - KS will reach out to regulars (House of Expression, RDC, LGBR, Ursula's Cafe, Second Friday) to gauge interest this month, will make flyer and post event in May
- ii) No need to invite other orgs to host/sponsor, but would be good to reach out to past attendee groups like VTC Pride group, SARA, SWVA Pride, Park Chapel Church with a direct invite

## 7) ROANOKE COLLEGE DIVORCE

- a) Our new, independent website is live at [swvalgbtqhistory.org](https://swvalgbtqhistory.org).
- b) As for the digital archives, we'll look into preserving our digital archives materials (PDFs and metadata) off of RC platforms so that it can be used in a different, future setting if desired

## 8) NEXT MEETING?

- a) Tues June 4, Parrott Room 6pm
- b) Do we need May mtg? If so % or 5/7